Case 2826

Monograptus crenulatus (currently *Monoclimacis crenulata*; Graptolithina): proposed attribution of the specific name to Elles & Wood, 1911, and proposed designation of a lectotype

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve in its accepted usage the specific name of the Silurian graptolite *Monograptus crenulatus*. Törnquist (1881) established the nominal species *crenulatus* and Elles & Wood (1911) used his name for specimens from Wales which have since been shown to be non-conspecific with Törnquist's species, which is a synonym of *Monograptus vomerinus vomerinus* (Nicholson, 1872). *Monograptus crenulatus* sensu Elles & Wood gives its name to the important *Monoclimacis crenulatus* Biozone. It is proposed that the nominal species *crenulatus* be attributed to Elles & Wood, 1911, and that one of the specimens figured by them be designated lectotype.

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1. Törnquist (1881, pp. 438, pl. 17, figs. 4a–d) described a new species *Monograptus crenulatus* from the 'retiolitesskiffern' (Silurian) of Nitsjö and Stygforsen, Sweden.

2. Wood (1906, p. 657) erected the *Monograptus crenulatus* Biozone, the type locality being the Trannon River section in Wales.

3. Elles & Wood (1911, pp. 412–413, text figs. 278a–e, pl. 41, figs. 4a–d) in their *Monograph of British Graptolites* described and figured specimens which they named *Monograptus vomerinus* (Nicholson, 1872) var. *crenulatus* (Törnquist). All the specimens figured, except that figured as pl. 41, fig. 4d, were from Wood's (1906) collections from the Trannon district. This monograph, published between 1901 and 1918, became the standard guide for graptolite identification for the 50 years subsequent to its publication and is still widely used.

4. Prior to 1970 Elles & Wood's specimens of *Monograptus crenulatus* had been universally accepted as specimens of *M. crenulatus* Törnquist. References to *M. crenulatus* during this period are based on Elles & Wood's (1911) description (e.g.

Pribyl, 1940, pp. 7–8, pl. 2, figs. 17–18; Waterlot, 1945, p. 76, fig. 323 (pars); Münch, 1952, p. 120, pl. 38, figs. 6a–b; Romariz, 1962, pp. 264–265, pl. 13, fig. 19).

5. In 1970 Rickards (p. 177) questioned the validity of Törnquist's species *Monoclimacis crenulata*, and referred to *Monoclimacis crenulata* sensu Elles & Wood. Bjerreskov (1975, pp. 56–57) measured specimens of *Monograptus crenulatus* Törnquist from the type areas of Nittsjö and Stygforsen. She concluded: 'These specimens have measurements so close to those of *Monograptus vomerinus vomerinus* and a revision will probably show that they have to be included in this species. However, *M. crenulatus* sensu Elles & Wood is quite different from *M. vomerinus vomerinus*, and this form should be maintained as a separate species or subspecies'.

6. Examination by one of us (D.K.L.) of the type material of *Monoclimacis crenulata* (Törnquist) and of the neotype of *Monoclimacis vomerina vomerina* confirms that, contrary to Elles & Wood's thinking, the two are conspecific. This neotype was selected by Strachan (1971, p. 65) as BU 1542, housed in the Lapworth Museum of Birmingham University, and figured by Elles & Wood (1911, pl. 41, fig. 1a); it is from the Riccarton Beds of Elliotsfield, S. Scotland.

7. *Monoclimacis crenulata* (sensu Elles & Wood) has been used widely as an indicator of the *Monoclimacis crenulata* Biozone. Rickards (1976, p. 166) noted that the recognition of the *M. crenulata* Biozone was based largely on the occurrence of *M. crenulata* (sensu Elles & Wood). Cocks et al. (1984, p. 173, fig. 69) included the *M. crenulata* Biozone as part of the 'standard scale of graptolite zones' in their paper *The Llandovery Series of the Type Area*. Rickards (1989, p. 269, fig. 169), in *A global standard for the Silurian System*, included the *Monoclimacis crenulata* Biozone in his table of biozones 'most widely in use in international correlation'.

8. It is desirable to retain the accepted usage of the species *Monoclimacis crenulata* and of the *Monoclimacis crenulata* Biozone. We therefore propose that the specific name *crenulata* be attributed to Elles & Wood (1911) and not to Törnquist (1881). Subject to acceptance of this proposal, we select the specimen figured by Elles & Wood (1911) as text fig. 278a as the lectotype of *Monograptus crenulatus* Elles & Wood, 1911. This specimen, from Wood's (1906) collection of graptolites from the Trannon area, is housed in Birmingham University, where it is registered as BU 1555 (see Strachan, 1971, p. 108).

9. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *crenulatus* Törnquist, 1881, as published in the binomen *Monograptus crenulatus*, and all uses of that name prior to its publication by Elles & Wood (1911), for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *crenulatus* Elles & Wood, 1911, as published in the trinomen *Monograptus vomerinus crenulatus* and as defined by the lectotype designated in para. 8 above;

(3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *crenulatus* Törnquist, 1881, as published in the binomen *Monograptus crenulatus* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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